

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a method of making molded articles having at least one field of hooks integrally molded thereon, the hook-bearing surface of the molded article having a draft angle of less than 45° with respect to the hook forming surface of the mold.

The Examiner has maintained the rejections of the claims under the Harvey and Buzzell references. With respect to the arguments filed by the applicant on May 29, 2007 relating to the “draft angle” limitations, the Examiner has stated “Since the instant specification does not further define which mold surface is the point of reference (for example, the surface adjacent the insert), the mold surface of Harvey that is parallel with the insert constitutes the claimed draft angle.” That sentence is respectfully not understood, because the mold surface of the Harvey apparatus that is parallel with the insert is perpendicular to the theoretical plane along which the molded surface moves as it is withdrawn from the mold, such that the draft angle of the Harvey reference is not less than 45° .

Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application to allowance, the claims have been amended to remove the term “draft angle” and replace it with the phrase “angle between said removing direction and said hook-bearing surface of said molded article” where the “removing direction” is the direction in which the molded article is removed from the mold. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment is fully consistent with the specification as originally filed, and therefore adds no new matter to the present application. Further this amendment eliminates any confusion as to what planes are being referred to in the claims.

The rejection of claims 8, 10, 12-14 and 16-17 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Harvey (U.S. 6,224,364) is respectfully traversed. As previously noted, in the Harvey reference it may be seen that the angle between the plane of the hooks and the direction in which the molded product is removed from the mold, is about 90°, such that there is no shear at the hook bearing surface as the product is removed from the mold.

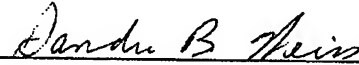
The rejection of claims 8, 10, 12, 16, and 17 as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by Buzzell et al (U.S. 6,187,247) also is respectfully traversed. As previously noted, it may be seen in FIG. 13C that the hook bearing surface of the molded product is withdrawn from the mold in a direction substantially perpendicular to the plane of the hooks, and there is no shear at the hook bearing surface as the product is removed from the mold.

The rejection of claim 15 as obvious in view of Harvey is respectfully traversed. The forming of hooks on the outer surface of the box is not a mere design choice. In particular, applicants disagree that “boxes with hooks on the outer surface are well-known in the molding art.” Please note that claim 13 has been amended to require that the box be integrally molded, and claim 15 has been amended to more clearly state that the hook-bearing surface of the integrally molded box is an outer surface of the box. Such integrally molded boxes with molded hooks on an outer surface thereof are unknown to applicant; and if the Examiner is aware of any such boxes, a specific citation to a pertinent prior art reference is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the grounds for rejection have been overcome, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fee is owned in connection with this amendment, and in particular with respect to the newly submitted claims, the Office is authorized to charge any amount due to Deposit Account No. 10-1202.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sandra B. Weiss", is written over a horizontal line.

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